

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

1. Disposition of Claims

Claim 1 was pending, and new claims 11 and 12 are added by this reply. Therefore, claims 1, 11, and 12 are pending after the amendments.

2. Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention recited. New claims 11 and 12 are added. Support for these amendments, for example, may be found in FIG. 1A. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

3. Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,911,605 (“Wales”). Claim 1 has been amended. To the extent this rejection may still apply to the amended claim 1, it is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a stock sheet, which is used for manufacturing multilayer flexible wiring board and has a plurality of wiring patterns arranged in the width direction on the same surface of sheet-like long substrate. The wiring patterns correspond to the individual layers

of a multilayer flexible wiring board. In the present invention, the plurality of wiring patterns are arranged directly on the same surface of a sheet-like substrate in the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction (transporting direction).

In contrast, Wales discloses a printed circuitry having a plurality of circuit coils arranged on both sides of a sheet-like electrically insulating material. For example, as shown in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, coils L3 and L4 are formed on the top side, while coils L6 and L7 are formed on the back side. In addition, the circuit coils of Wales that will form a multilayer board are arranged in the longitudinal direction of the sheet.

Furthermore, the connecting parts of the circuit coils (e.g., connecting areas 33,33a) are provided on the surface of the sheet. This is in contrast to the present invention, in which the connecting electrodes (e.g., land 3a and bump 11) are provided with wiring patterns formed through the substrate and are exposed on both sides of the substrate, as shown in Fig. 1B. Thus, what is taught by Wales is very different from the invention recited in claims 1, 11, and 12.

Specifically, Wales fails to teach or suggest at least the limitations: "a plurality of wiring patterns formed on a same surface of the substrate, each wiring pattern having connecting electrodes through the substrate and exposed on both sides of the substrate, wherein a plurality of wiring patterns corresponding to individual layers of a multilayer flexible wiring board are directly arranged on the same surface of the substrate in the width direction," as required by the amended claim 1.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Because Wales fails to teach or

suggest every limitation of amended claim 1, claim 1 is patentable over Wales. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

Claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 1. Therefore, new claims 11 and 12 are also patentable over Wales for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03310.023001).

Respectfully submitted,

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